

**ONE-SIDED "RECIPROCITY."**

The present Medical Practice Act, while it has many good features, works a great injustice to California citizens in that it lets down the bars in California for many kinds of licentiates from other states but does not require that the other states accept our own licentiates. It has the effect of bringing into our state many physicians who on account of ill health, or for some other reason, were unsuccessful in their own states and it also permits candidates who have repeatedly failed to pass the California examinations to go to other more lenient states, pass their easy examinations and then promptly return to us by the "Reciprocity" route. The evident unfairness of the law in this particular makes it unique. In the endeavor of the legislature to be broad-minded in their attitude towards physicians coming to California they have forgotten that California should ask from its neighboring states that same respect for their regulations that it itself gives. In this issue of the JOURNAL, an article by a member of the Board of Medical Examiners calls attention to the fact that a very large number of poorly-trained applicants licensed in other states prior to 1901 have presented themselves for reciprocity licenses.

**HOW IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE.**

In a pamphlet issued recently by the Calso Company are to be found a few sentences that tell quite a story; advertising in the STATE JOURNAL seems to pay some people, anyhow.

The present sales of Calso water in San Francisco exceed three hundred cases a month, and it has been shipped in 5-case lots to several of the Eastern cities, to other cities in California, Nevada, and other Coast States.

When it is considered that this growth has been without the expenditure of a dollar in any form of advertising except in the "California State Medical Journal," and with no expenditure for salesmen or any other form of stimulation, it may be truthfully said that this is a phenomenal record.

**FRACTURES; SUITS; X-RAY PLATES.**

It has become absolutely necessary for every physician to exercise the utmost caution in treating a case of fracture. A large percentage of suits for alleged malpractice are based upon cases where a fracture has been treated. It is essential that the physician take an X-ray plate of the fracture, preferably both before and after setting, *and keep the plate!* Failure on the part of the physician to take this simple precaution, has cost the Society close upon \$5,000, most of which would have been saved had proper X-ray plates been taken and kept by the attendant. On this account the House of Delegates authorized the Council to make a just rule covering this point in connection with the medical defense work. The Council has ruled that each such suit will be considered separately and on its own merits, but that unless it can be shown by the member sued that it was well nigh impossible for him to have an X-ray taken, he must defend the suit himself and pay for his own carelessness. The basic

principle of the rule is sound; it is not fair to permit one careless member to cause a great expense to all the other members. Ninety-nine times in a hundred, it is quite possible to have an X-ray plate made, either before or after setting—or both—and the protection secured is enormous. The Council wishes and intends to be absolutely fair to all in its administration of the heavy burden placed upon it by the Society in the guidance of this medical defense work, but in doing so it does not wish to permit any member, through his own fault, to be an expensive burden to the whole Society.

*Always have an X-ray taken of your fracture cases—and keep the plate; do not give it to the patient.*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!****New Medical Defense Rules.**

That the number of suits for damages for alleged malpractice has very greatly increased in the last two years and that it is increasing, are facts that have been frequently commented on in the JOURNAL and in the reports of the officers at the annual meetings. The Council of the State Society has employed the best attorneys that money can secure and in formulating its rules and in handling cases, nothing is done without the advice of our attorneys. And this is for the purpose of securing the greatest good and benefit to all the members of the Society. Note the following points as they are of the greatest importance to you:

*Be sure that your dues are paid to the Secretary of your County Medical Society before the end of February.* Any member whose name is not sent in and whose assessment is not paid before March 1st, is dropped *as from January 1st* and he is without the protection of the State Society for the period from January 1st to the date when his assessment is sent in. He may have to defend a suit arising from some case occurring during this period. Be prompt with your dues.

The Council has ruled, on the advice of our attorneys, that if a member who has insurance in some insurance company giving him protection against damage suits is sued, he must at once *elect whether the insurance company is to undertake his legal defense or the Society.* In the past we have had a great deal of trouble and confusion and unnecessary work and expense by having divided responsibility. The member so sued must remember that if he elects to have the Society take charge of his case, he violates a clause in his policy and has thrown away the money he paid as the premium. If he has the company take charge of the case, and if he will see that our office is kept in touch with the progress of his case, our attorneys will co-operate with the insurance company's attorneys, should it seem necessary or wise to do so. It is the desire and the